

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 April 2002 (04.04.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/27700 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G09G**

[GB/GB]; Epson Cambridge Laboratory, 8c King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1SJ (GB). **FRIEND, Richard** [GB/GB]; The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1QA (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB01/04376

(22) International Filing Date:

28 September 2001 (28.09.2001)

(74) Agent: **STURT, Clifford, Mark**; Miller Sturt Kenyon, 9 John Street, London WC1N 2ES (GB).

(25) Filing Language:

English

(81) Designated States (national): CN, JP, KR, US.

(26) Publication Language:

English

(84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

(30) Priority Data:

0023787.5 28 September 2000 (28.09.2000) GB

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

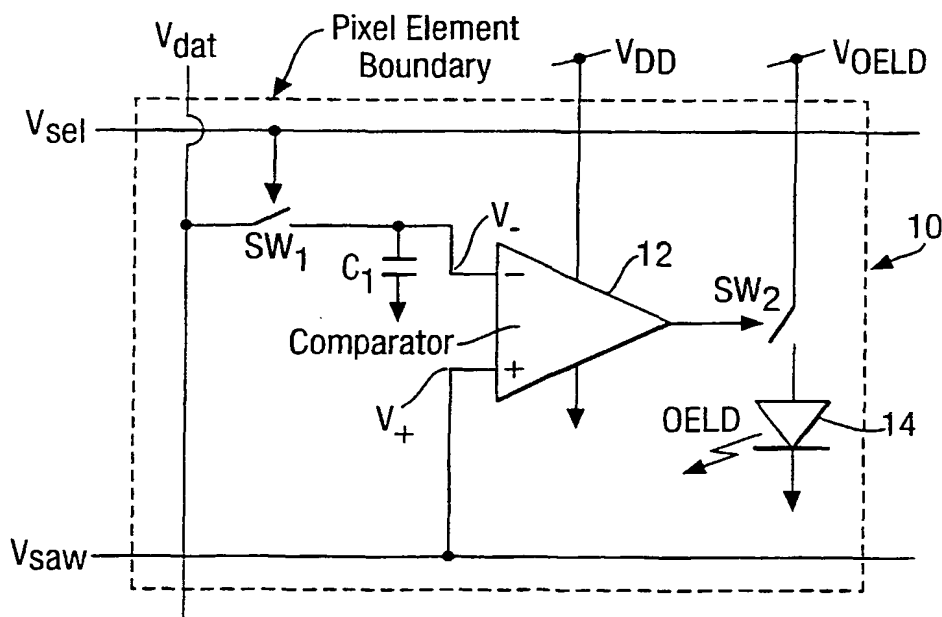
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION** [JP/JP]; 4-1, Nishishinjuku 2-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-0811 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **TAM, Simon**

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DISPLAY DEVICE, METHOD OF DRIVING A DISPLAY DEVICE, ELECTRONIC APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A display device comprising a driver circuit which modulates the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period. Preferably the driver circuit comprises a comparator and more preferably the comparator is formed of thin film transistors constituting a differential pair and an inverter. Also provided is a method of driving a display device comprising the step of modulating the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period. Beneficially the display device is an organic electroluminescent active matrix display device.

WO 02/27700 A2

Display Device, Method of Driving a Display Device, Electronic Apparatus

The present invention relates to display devices and in particular to improving the display quality thereof. The invention also relates to a method and an electronic apparatus.

One example of a display device to which the present invention relates is an organic electroluminescent display device. Organic electroluminescent devices (OELDs) comprise a layer (active layer) of organic light emitting material, often a light emitting polymer, sandwiched between two electrodes which are used to pass a current through the active material. The device essentially behaves like a diode and the intensity of light emission is a function of the forward bias current which is applied. The devices are good candidates for the fabrication of display panels.

A basic requirement for a display panel is an ability to display good quality graphical images. This is dependent upon the ability of the individual pixels to generate a range of brightness intensity. The image quality improves as the number of gray scales increases. The conventionally used standard is 3 x 8 bit colour, equivalent to 256 gray scales per colour. This standard is used in many current day applications.

Various methods of generating gray scales with an analog driving circuit have been proposed for OELD displays. The conventional technique is to drive the OELD with a voltage dependent current and this has allowed the implementation of active matrix OELD displays. A typical arrangement is illustrated in figure 1 hereof.

As shown in figure 1, when transistor T_1 is selected (by voltage V_{sel}) it turns on and the data voltage (V_{dat}) is transferred to the gate of transistor T_2 . Assuming T_2 is biased in the saturation region, the data voltage V_{dat} is converted into current, which drives the OELD to the required brightness intensity.

The variation of threshold voltages of the transistors is, however, a very significant problem in the practical implementation of the above described display panels. Another significant problem is the high power consumption of these circuits.

An alternative method of providing gray scaling is to use an area dithering technique in which each pixel is divided in to a number of sub-pixels, preferably with binary weighted areas. Each sub-pixel is driven either fully on or fully off. Thus a digital driver can be used and power consumption reduced. However, this technique has the disadvantage that

the panel size is increased (because each pixel is replaced by a number of sub-pixels and, in the limit, each sub-pixel is the same size as a conventional pixel) and also there is a large increase in the number of signal lines required (because of the need to address each sub-pixel).

Against this background, it is an object of the present invention to provide a display device with good gray scale capabilities which mitigates the above mentioned disadvantages.

According to the present invention there is provided a display device comprising a driver circuit which modulates the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period.

Thus, the present invention provides pulse width modulation of the on-period of a pixel and the integrating function of the human eye perceives this as modulation of the intensity of the emitted light. Modulation of the on-period is in stark contrast to the conventional control of brightness, ie control of the instantaneous amplitude of the current supplied.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described in more detail by way of further example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a circuit diagram of a conventional pixel level driver in an OLED display panel;

Figure 2 is a circuit diagram of a pixel level driver in an OLED display panel, according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 illustrates a detailed circuit diagram and operating waveforms for an implementation of the comparator shown in the circuit of figure 2;

Figure 4 illustrates driving waveforms in the circuit of figure 2;

Figure 5 is a circuit diagram illustrating the use of an integrated waveform generator;

Figure 6 illustrates a generalised synchronous driving scheme;

Figure 7 illustrates a generalised asynchronous driving scheme;

Figures 8A and 8B show the significance of using higher frequencies in the asynchronous driving scheme;

Figures 9A and 9B illustrate the incorporation of gamma correction in to the driving voltage;

Figure 10 is a detailed circuit diagram of a sawtooth wave generator;

Figure 11 shows input waveforms for the circuit of figure 10;

Figures 12A and 12B show gray scales obtained in a specific example;

Figure 13 is a schematic view of a mobile personal computer incorporating a display device having a pixel driver according to the present invention,

Figure 14 is a schematic view of a mobile telephone incorporating a display device having a pixel driver according to the present invention, and

Figure 15 is a schematic view of a digital camera incorporating a display device having a pixel driver according to the present invention,

A description will first be given of the pixel level configuration according to one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, figure 2 is a circuit diagram of an individual pixel 10 within an active matrix OLED display panel. The circuit is implemented using polysilicon TFT components and comprises an MOS-input comparator 12 and two pass-gates, SW_1 and SW_2 . The use of pass-gates avoids so-called "feed-through", i.e. coupling with other circuit voltages. The inverting input (+) of the comparator 12 is connected to a waveform source V_{saw} . The non-inverting input (-) is connected to a storage capacitor C_1 and a pass-gate SW_1 . The pass-gate SW_1 is controlled by a waveform V_{sel} . The output of the comparator is connected to a pass-gate SW_2 . Pass-gate SW_2 controls the current flowing in to the organic light emitting element 14. By applying a time varying signal to V_{saw} , the light emitting element 14 is switched on for a period depending on the value of the data voltage V_{dat} which is applied to the other side of pass-gate SW_1 compared to the capacitor C_1 and the comparator 12.

In a line-at-a-time driving scheme, V_{sel} sets the state of the pass-gate SW_1 of the pixel elements on the same row. When pass-gate SW_1 is closed, the data voltage V_{dat} is transferred to the inverting input of the comparator 12 and to the capacitor C_1 . Then, when pass-gate SW_1 is opened the data voltage is memorised by capacitor C_1 . The waveform V_{saw} is then initiated. When the voltage, V_+ , at the inverting input of the comparator 12 is less than the voltage, V_- , at the non-inverting input thereof, the comparator outputs a LO signal which puts the light emitting element 14 in to the on-state. When the voltage, V_+ , at

the inverting input of the comparator 12 is greater than the voltage, V_- , at the non-inverting input thereof, the comparator outputs a HI signal which puts the light emitting element 14 in to the off-state. As a result the data voltage stored by the capacitor C_1 modulates the duration for which the light emitting element 14 remains in the on-state during a frame period.

The frame period might typically be 20mS and with the response time of the light emitting element 14 being of the order of nano-seconds, the speed of the polysilicon TFTs and any stray capacitance become the limiting factors in operation of the driving scheme. That is, exceptionally effective switching can be obtained.

In the circuit illustrated in figure 2, a common operating voltage V_{OELD} is used for all OELD pixels of the same type. The voltage V_{OELD} is set externally and is independent of the supply voltage V_{DD} of the driving circuit. This significantly increases the flexibility of controlling the bias conditions for the OELDs.

A description will now be given of the detailed considerations which apply to the practical implementation of the comparator 12 used in the circuit of figure 2.

Since a separate comparator is provided for each pixel, the circuit area and power consumption of the comparator should be kept as low as possible. Further, in order to achieve a high number of gray scales, the comparator must be able to distinguish a small difference in input voltages. For example, if it is desired to implement 256 gray scales with a voltage swing of 0V to 5V then clearly something of the order of $\Delta V = 19.5\text{mV}$ is appropriate. Thus switching must be very fast but, from the previous discussion, it is well within the ability of the described circuit.

A detailed circuit diagram of one implementation of the comparator 12 of figure 2 is illustrated in figure 3. The circuit of figure 3 comprises two stages: a CMOS differential amplifier 16, and a CMOS inverter 18. The CMOS inverter 18 turns the pass-gate SW_2 fully on or fully off very quickly. For level shifting purposes the power supply of the inverter stage 18 can be different from that of the differential stage 16.

The differential stage 16 comprises the drain-source series connection circuit of transistors 20, 21 and 23 connected between the V_{DD} rail and ground, together with the similarly connected circuit of transistors 20, 22 and 24, wherein transistors 22 and 24 are

connected in parallel with transistors 21 and 23. The respective gates of transistors 21 and 22 provide the two input terminals (+), (-) of the comparator 12, whereas the gate of transistor 20 receives a bias voltage V_{bias} . The output stage 18 comprises two transistors, 25 and 26, which are source-drain series connected between the V_{DD} rail and ground. The output V_{out} of the comparator is taken from the connection between the transistors 25 and 26 and the gates thereof receive their input from the junction between transistors 21 and 23.

The circuit illustrated in figure 3 uses seven TFTs. Using a respective TFT for SW_1 and SW_2 brings the total per pixel to nine.

A description will now be given of various aspects of implementing a display panel incorporating the above described embodiment of pixel level circuitry.

Figure 4 illustrates waveforms which can be used with the circuit of figure 2. Figure 4 comprise two diagrams, (a) and (b), in which the waveforms V_{scan} , V_{saw} and V_{out} are shown. V_{out} is the driving pulse applied to the OLED. Figures 4(a) and (b) differ in the shape of the waveform used for V_{saw} . In figure 4(a) the waveform of V_{saw} is a sawtooth whereas in figure 4(b) the waveform of V_{saw} is triangular. Using the sawtooth waveform of figure 4(a) the output pulse always starts at the beginning of each frame. Thus the sawtooth waveform of figure 4(a) provides a linear gray scale, as it provides a reference time point for the eye to start integrating for each frame. For the triangular waveform of figure 4(b) the centre of the output pulse always occurs at mid-cycle.

Basically all pixels in the same row of the matrix share the same driving waveform, denoted by $V_{saw/m}$ where m indicates that it is the m^{th} -row of the matrix which is being considered. When rows are addressed sequentially, the driving waveforms for the next row, denoted by $V_{saw/m+1}$, should incorporate a delay or phase shift of T_{frame}/M , where T_{frame} is the frame period and M is the total number of rows in the matrix. Thus if the display is driven externally a total of M interconnections are required. This can be a problem for high resolution displays. Thus, according to one embodiment of the present invention there is provided an integrated waveform generator, by which the number of interconnections required can be reduced.

Figure 5 is a circuit diagram illustrating the use of an integrated waveform generator. The waveform generator 30 receives separate master and reference voltage

inputs, V_{master} and V_{ref} . The waveform generator 30 also receives an input from $V_{\text{scan}/m}$. The generator output $V_{\text{saw}/m}$ is applied to all of the pixels 10 in a particular row of the matrix.

Ideally, however, the function of the generators is to provide the same waveform with a unique phase shift for each row of pixel elements. The precise timing and data voltage relationship becomes a major challenge when the spatial variation of TFT characteristics over a display panel is taken into account. However, this problem can be solved by providing the master clock V_{master} and the reference voltage source V_{ref} to ensure that outputs from all waveform generators are the same but different in phase shift.

The waveform generator should be synchronised to $V_{\text{scan}/m}$, and thus the signal $V_{\text{scan}/m}$ can be used as a trigger.

From the foregoing description, a generalised synchronous driving scheme is illustrated in figure 6. Two rows and six columns of pixels are illustrated. As denoted by R, G, B indicating red, green and blue; the light emitting element in each pixel may be designed to emit light of different colours thus implementing a full colour display. The pixels are driven by a data driver 32 and a row driver 34. A separate waveform generator, WG, is provided for each row and the signals applied are indicated in figure 6. Each waveform generator is synchronised to the scan line signal and the minimum operating frequency is equal to the frame rate.

The display can also be driven asynchronously. An asynchronous driving scheme is shown in figure 7. The difference between this arrangement and that illustrated in figure 6 is that a single waveform generator is used for the whole display rather than using one per row. With this arrangement the waveform generator can be integrated on the display panel or can easily be provided externally of the panel. The waveform is independent of the scan line signal and higher operating frequencies can thus be used, thereby obtaining better image quality. The significance of using higher frequencies can be appreciated from figures 8A and 8B, that is the improved gray scale accuracy of figure 8B (high frequency V_{DRV}) compared with figure 8A (low frequency V_{DRV}) is readily apparent. This phenomenon is important for moving images but can effectively be ignored for still images.

It is also possible to incorporate gamma compensation into the driving waveform. This is illustrated in figures 9A and 9B, which show gamma correction incorporated in to the driving voltage V_{DRV} .

Figure 10 is a detailed circuit diagram of a sawtooth waveform generator such as may be employed in the above described embodiments of the present invention. The circuit receives an input signal V_{gray} which is applied to one terminal of a capacitor C_{20} . The other terminal of capacitor C_{20} is connected to one side of each of switches SW_{10} and SW_{20} . These switches SW_{10} and SW_{20} are controlled by signals ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , respectively. The other side of switch SW_{20} is connected to ground via a capacitor C_{10} and also via a switch SW_{30} which is controlled by signal V_{scan} . Switches SW_{20} , SW_{30} and capacitor C_{10} are connected to the input of a unity gain buffer 36. Switch SW_{10} controls a feedback loop from the output of the buffer 36. The output of the buffer 36 is applied to a low-pass filter L.P. consisting of a resistor and a capacitor. The out put of the filter L.P. provides the generator output V_{saw} .

As noted above, the circuit has four inputs (V_{gray} , ϕ_1 , ϕ_2 and V_{scan}) and one output (V_{saw}). The input waveforms are shown in figure 11.

Waveform V_{gray} operates between 0V and a maximum level, say h . Waveforms ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are non-overlapping clock pulses and V_{scan} is the same signal as in the scan line. When V_{scan} goes HI, data is transferred to the pixel storage capacitor as described above. At the same time, V_{scan} signals SW_{30} to close so that the input of the unity gain buffer is at 0V and C_{10} is discharged. Effectively, this acts as a reset and zeros the output. When V_{scan} goes LO, SW_{30} is opened. Waveform $V_{gray} = 0V$ when SW_{20} is closed and SW_{10} is opened. The transition of V_{gray} from 0V to h raises the input voltage at the unity gain buffer. If $C_{10} = C_{20}$, this increment equals $h/2$. When $V_{gray} = h$, SW_{20} is opened and SW_{10} is closed. The unity gain buffer 32 input voltage is stored by C_{10} . This voltage is reflected by the output of the unity gain buffer and is connected to C_{20} while V_{gray} returns to 0V. Next SW_{10} is opened and then SW_{20} is closed, and then V_{gray} will transit from 0V to h . This will increase further the voltage at the input of the unity gain buffer 32. If C_{10}

= C_{20} , this increment equals $h/2$ and the resulting voltage becomes h . This continues and the output of the unity gain buffer 36 takes on a step shape. If the output is passed through the low pass filter L.P. the output signal becomes a smooth ramp.

It may be appreciated that the described arrangements according to the present invention can utilise existing analog video signals as input signals.

Example

An example was implemented using the circuits described above, with polysilicon TFTs. Using a data voltage range of 0V to 5V, 256 gray scales were implemented.

After the data transfer, which typically occurs in the first 20 μ s, the frame period was divided into 256 sections. For a frame rate of 50cycles/s, the time difference for each additional gray scale is given by $\Delta t = 1/50 \div 256 = 78.125\mu$ s, and the corresponding data voltage difference is given by $\Delta V = 5 \div 256 = 19.53$ mV. It is noted that for gray scale = 0 the OLED must not be turned on at all.

Figures 12A and 12B show the first five (GS= 1 to 5) and last five (GS= 252 to 256) gray scales, respectively. The area under the pulses are calculated and plotted against the gray scale. As shown in figures 12A and 12B, there is good linearity of pixel brightness within the gray scaling. However, a difference in slope is noted. This is believed to be due to the round corner in the pulse trailing edges, caused by the circuit's stray capacitance. This results in a smaller change in brightness for the lower gray scale values. This is not a serious problem and can be corrected by adjusting the input signal.

The current required by the driver is small compared to the current flowing in to the electroluminescent element.

Generally, the image quality which can be achieved with the present invention has been found to be superior to conventional Liquid Crystal Displays and at least equal to that of conventional CRT displays. In addition, the low power consumption required by the display device of the present invention makes it ideal for mobile and portable apparatus.

Modifications

As will already be appreciated, although much of the detail given above in relation to specific embodiments has been in terms of organic electroluminescent display devices; the present invention is also applicable to other types of display devices. Further, although the

above described embodiments have mentioned specific implementation using TFT technology, usually in polysilicon,; the present invention is not limited to the use of TFT technology. The invention is applicable not only to thin film transistor technology but also to silicon based transistors. Silicon based transistors can be arranged on a display substrate using several different methods. For example, silicon based transistors can be arranged in a liquid.

The present invention is advantageous for use in small, mobile electronic products such as mobile phones, computers, CD players, DVD players and the like - although it is not limited thereto.

Several electronic apparatuses using a display device according to the present invention will now be described.

<1: Mobile Computer>

An example in which the display device according to one of the above embodiments is applied to a mobile personal computer will now be described.

Figure 13 is an isometric view illustrating the configuration of this personal computer. In the drawing, the personal computer 1100 is provided with a body 1104 including a keyboard 1102 and a display unit 1106. The display unit 1106 is implemented using a display panel fabricated according to the present invention, as described above.

<2: Portable Phone>

Next, an example in which the display device is applied to a display section of a portable phone will be described. Fig. 14 is an isometric view illustrating the configuration of the portable phone. In the drawing, the portable phone 1200 is provided with a plurality of operation keys 1202, an earpiece 1204, a mouthpiece 1206, and a display panel 100. This display panel 100 is implemented using a display panel fabricated according to the present invention, as described above.

<3: Digital Still Camera>

Next, a digital still camera using an OEL display device as a finder will be described. Fig. 15 is an isometric view illustrating the configuration of the digital still camera and the connection to external devices in brief.

Typical cameras sensitize films based on optical images from objects, whereas the digital still camera 1300 generates imaging signals from the optical image of an object by photoelectric conversion using, for example, a charge coupled device (CCD). The digital still

camera 1300 is provided with an OEL element 100 at the back face of a case 1302 to perform display based on the imaging signals from the CCD. Thus, the display panel 100 functions as a finder for displaying the object. A photo acceptance unit 1304 including optical lenses and the CCD is provided at the front side (behind in the drawing) of the case 1302.

When a cameraman determines the object image displayed in the OEL element panel 100 and releases the shutter, the image signals from the CCD are transmitted and stored to memories in a circuit board 1308. In the digital still camera 1300, video signal output terminals 1312 and input/output terminals 1314 for data communication are provided on a side of the case 1302. As shown in the drawing, a television monitor 1430 and a personal computer 1440 are connected to the video signal terminals 1312 and the input/output terminals 1314, respectively, if necessary. The imaging signals stored in the memories of the circuit board 1308 are output to the television monitor 1430 and the personal computer 1440, by a given operation.

Examples of electronic apparatuses, other than the personal computer shown in Fig. 13, the portable phone shown in Fig. 14, and the digital still camera shown in Fig. 15, include television sets, view-finder-type and monitoring-type video tape recorders, car navigation systems, pagers, electronic notebooks, portable calculators, word processors, workstations, TV telephones, point-of-sales system (POS) terminals, and devices provided with touch panels. Of course, the above described embodiments of the present invention can be applied to the display sections of these electronic apparatuses.

CLAIMS

1. A display device comprising a driver circuit which modulates the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period.
2. A display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a respective one of the said driver circuits is provided for each pixel in the matrix.
3. A display device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the driver circuit comprises a comparator.
4. A display device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the comparator is formed of thin film transistors.
5. A display device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the thin film transistors are formed of polysilicon.
6. A display device as claimed in any of claims 3 to 5, wherein the said driver circuit comprises a data storage capacitor connected to one input of the comparator and a time varying signal line connected to another input of the comparator.
7. A display device as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6, wherein the comparator comprises a differential pair circuit and an inverter circuit.
8. A display device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display device is an active matrix display device.
9. A display device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display device is an organic electroluminescent display device.

10. A display device as claimed in claim 9, comprising a common operating voltage line for the light emitting element of each pixel and a driving circuit supply voltage line which is separate from the common operating voltage line.

11. A method of driving a display device comprising the step of modulating the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of modulating the duty cycle comprises a comparison of a data signal with a time varying signal.

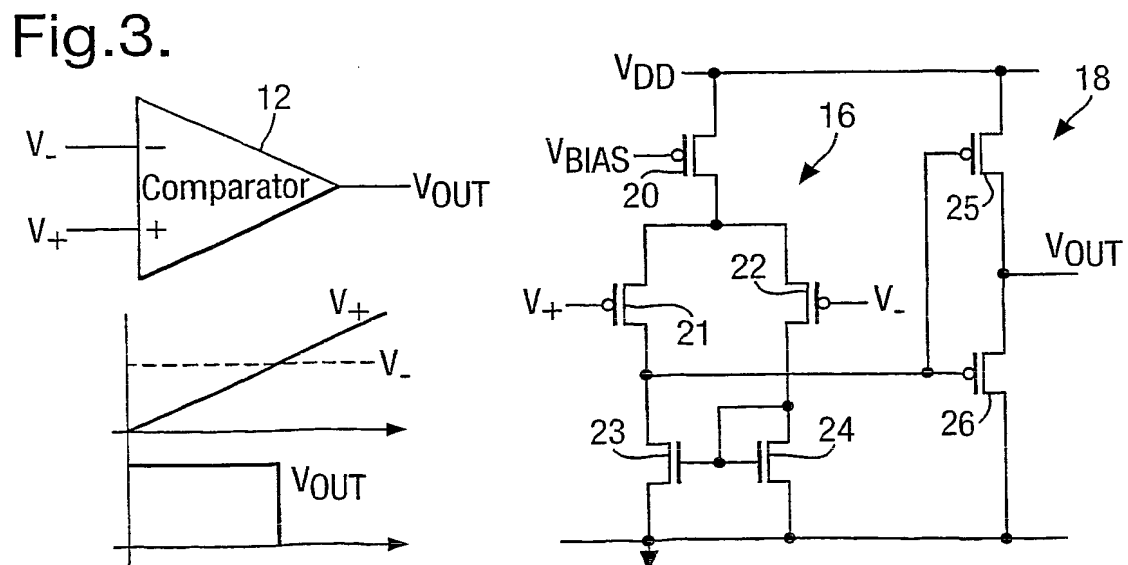
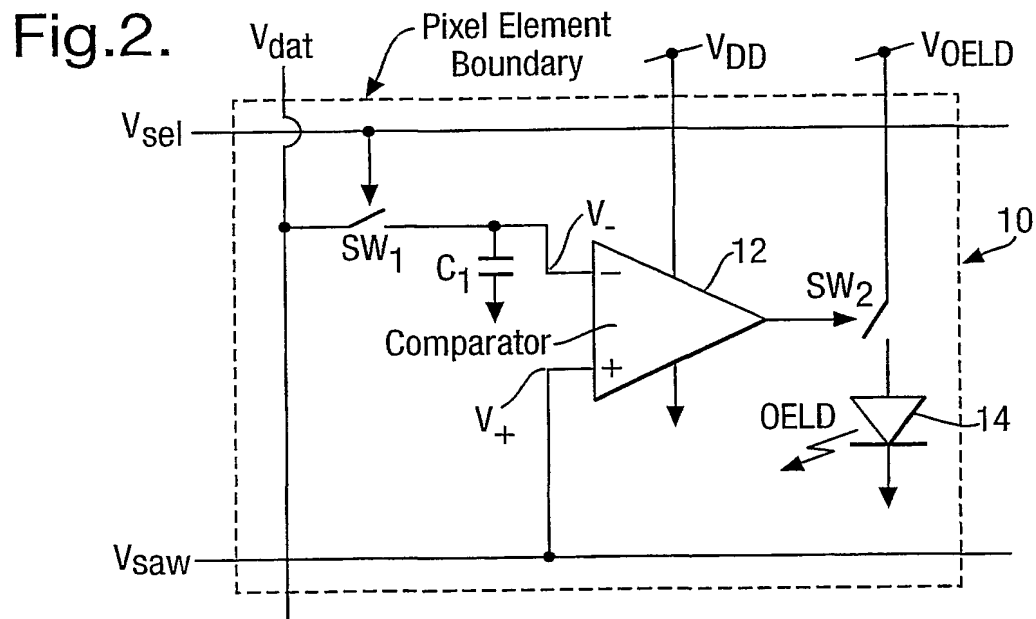
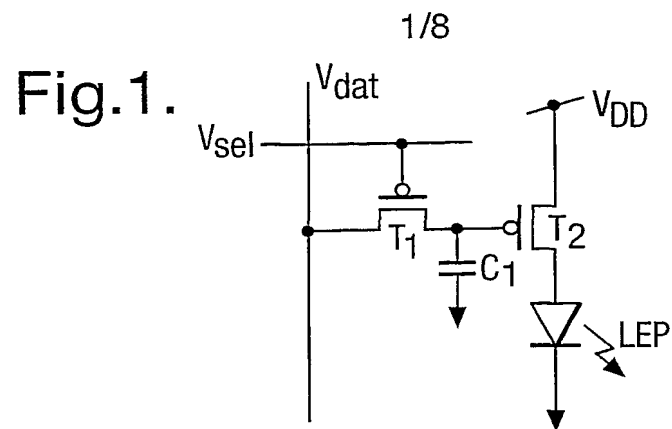
13. A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the step of providing the time varying signal in the form of a sawtooth waveform.

14. A method as claimed in claim 12, comprising the step of providing the time varying signal in the form of a triangular shaped waveform.

15. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 14, comprising the step of selecting the display device to be an active matrix display device.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, comprising the step of driving the rows of the matrix using a common waveform generator which provides a row-to-row phase shift in the time varying signal applied to sequential rows.

17. An electronic apparatus including a display device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10.



2/8

Fig.4(a).

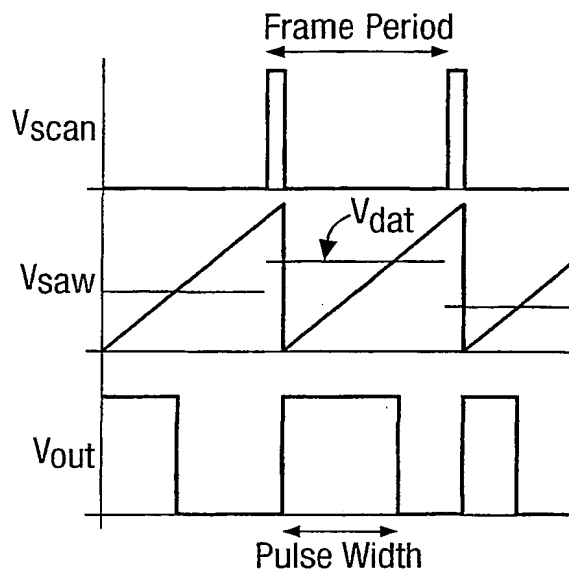


Fig.4(b).

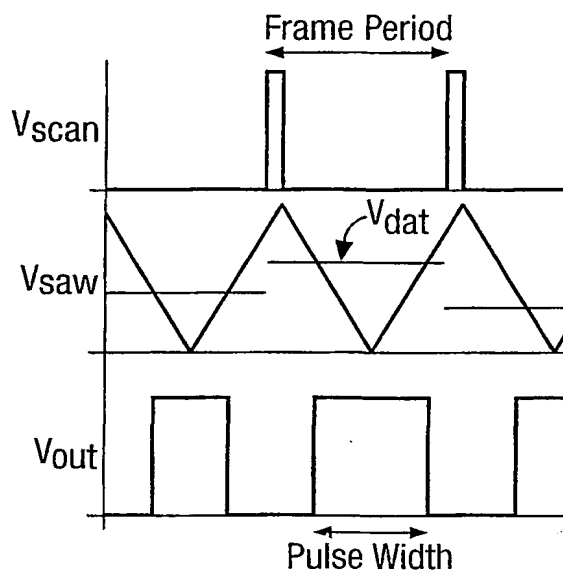
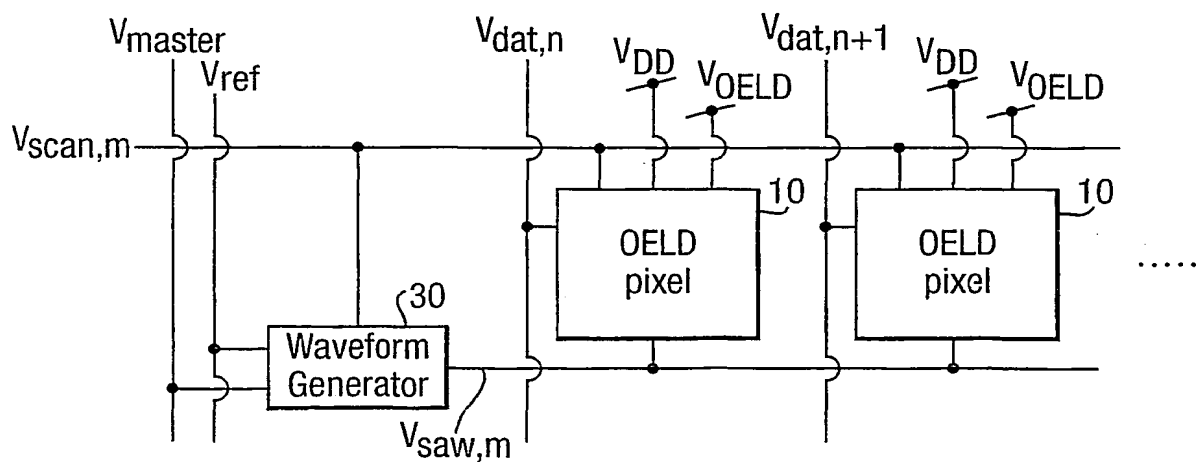


Fig.5.



3/8

Fig.6.

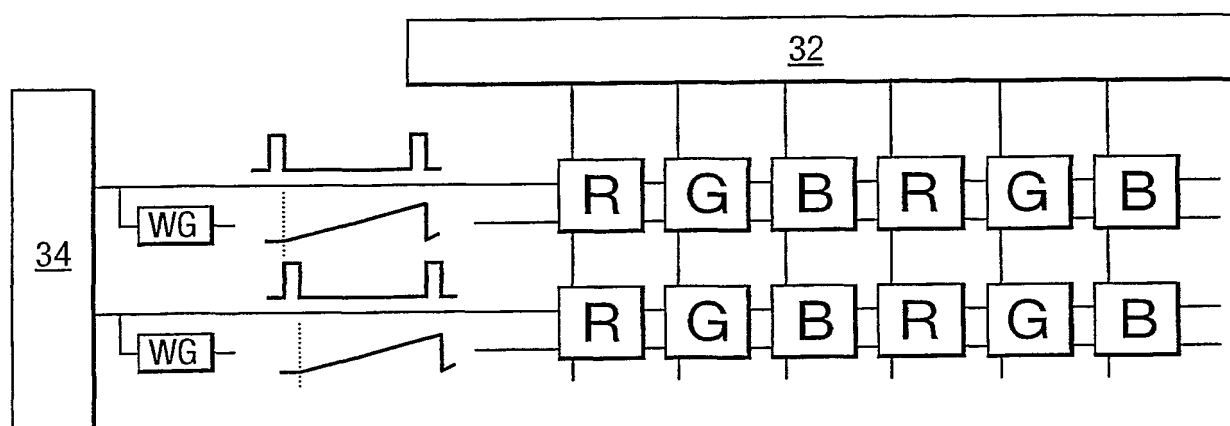
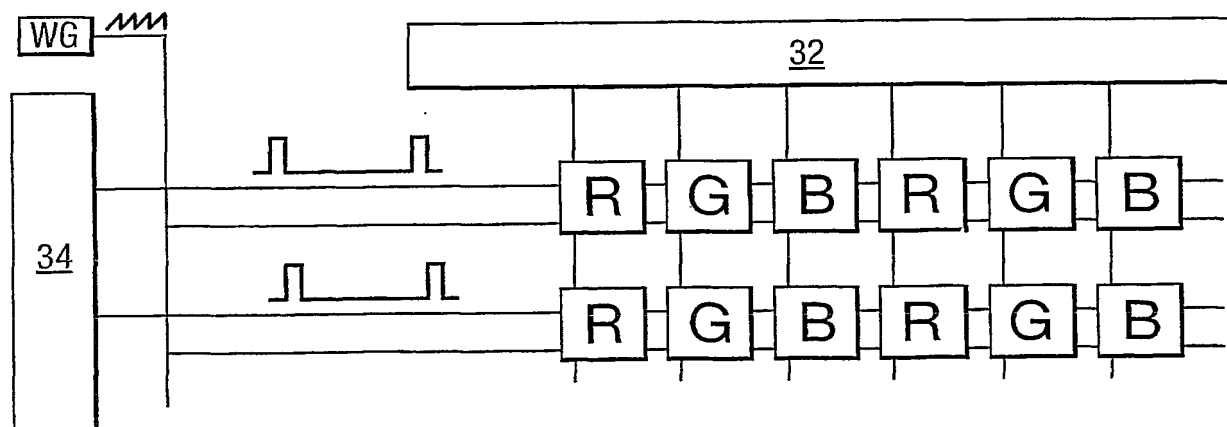


Fig.7.



4/8

Fig.8(a).

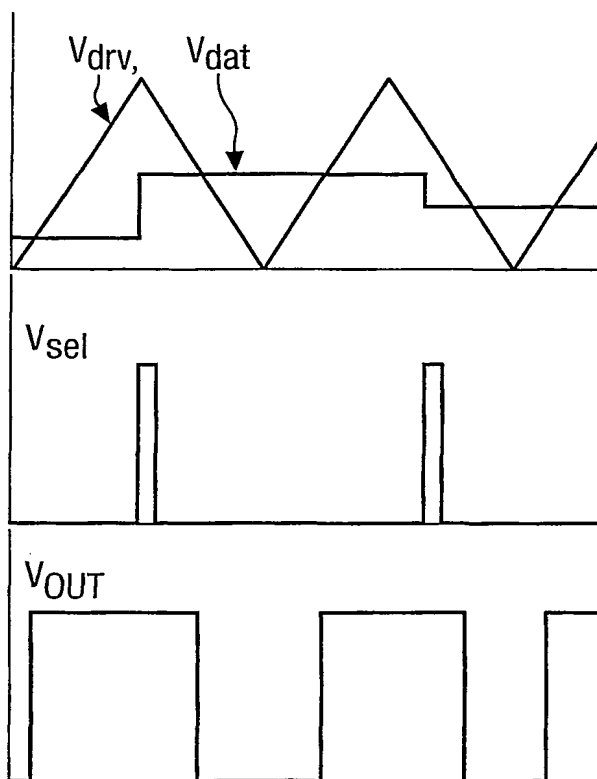


Fig.8(b).

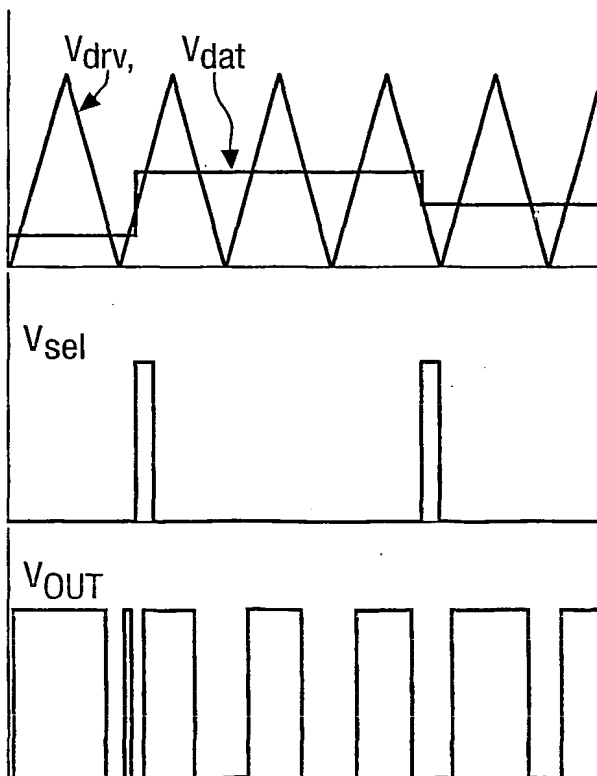


Fig.9(a).

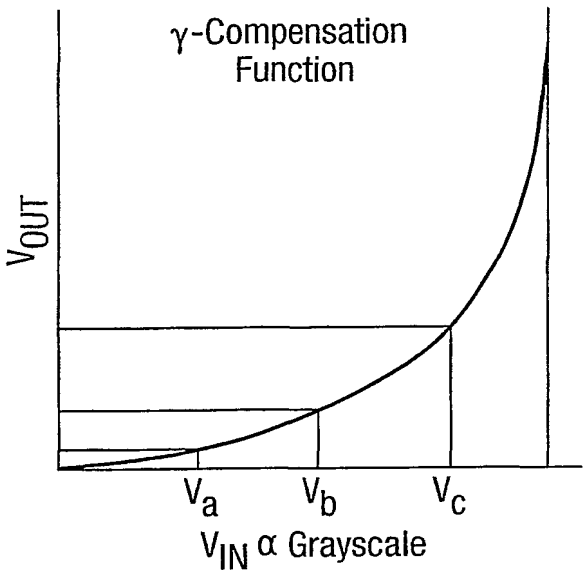
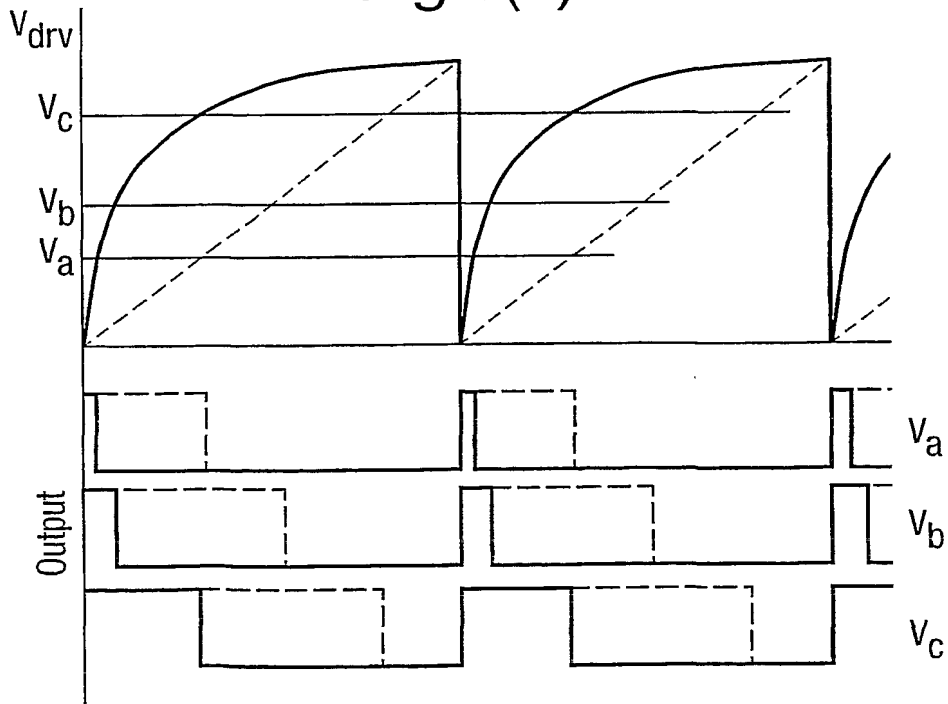


Fig.9(b).



6/8

Fig.10.

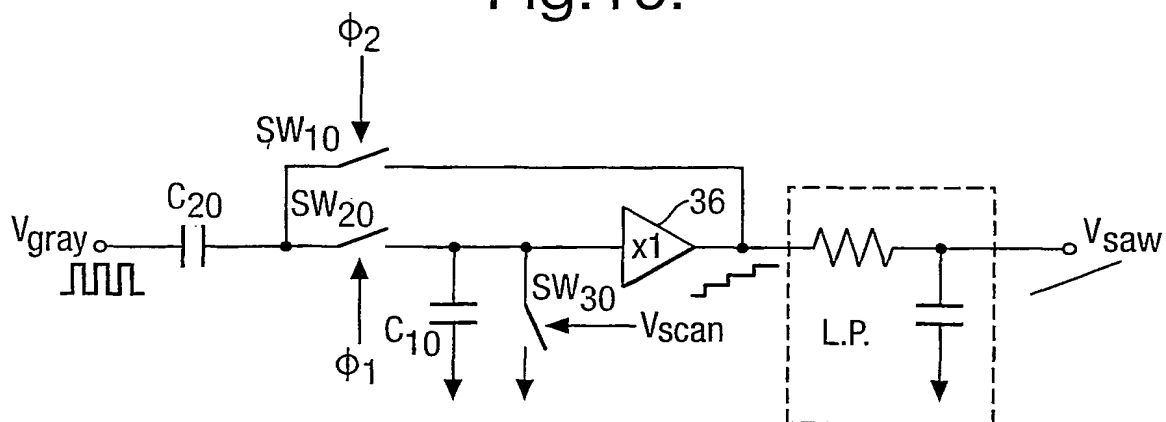
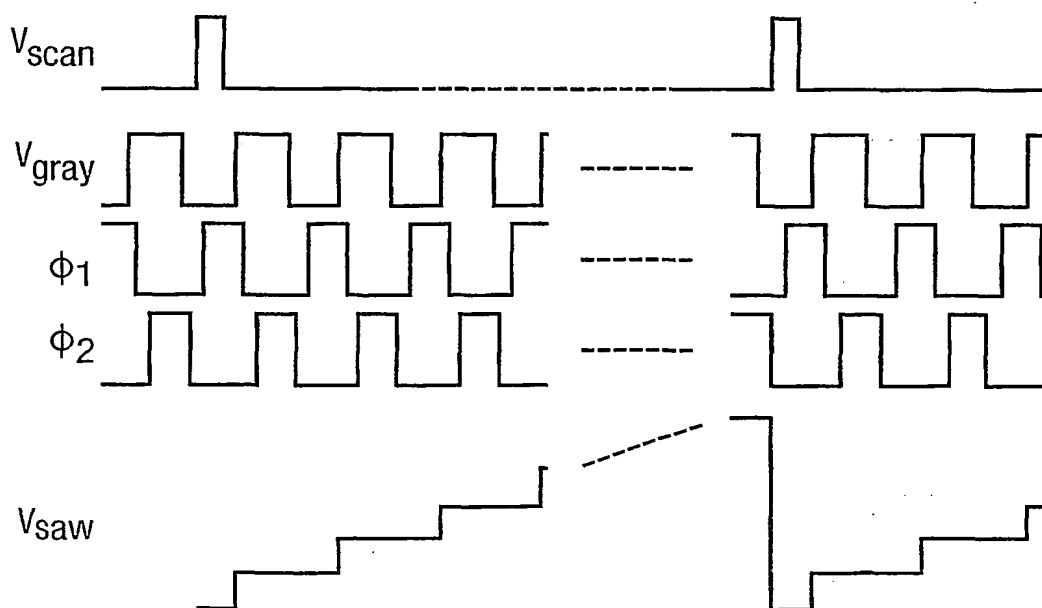


Fig.11.



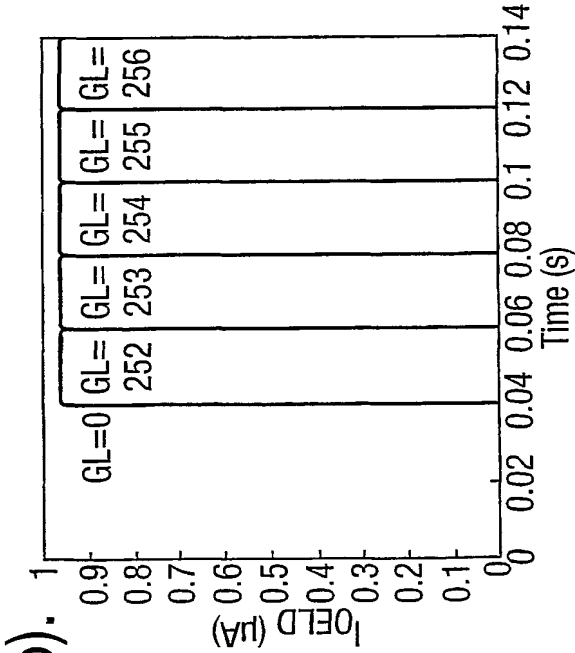
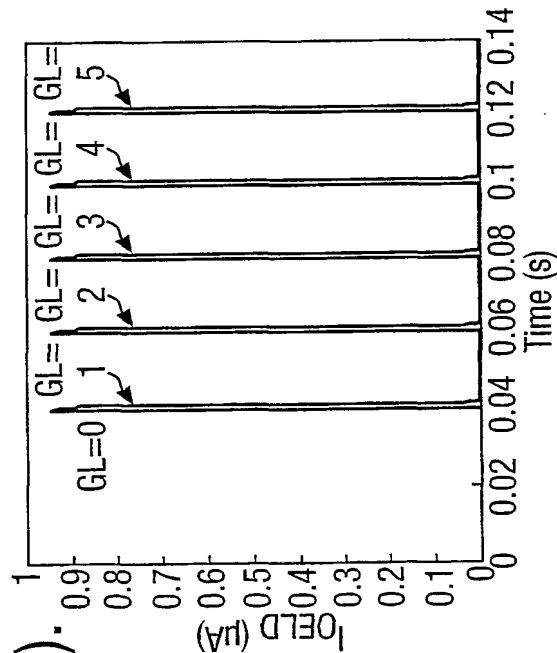
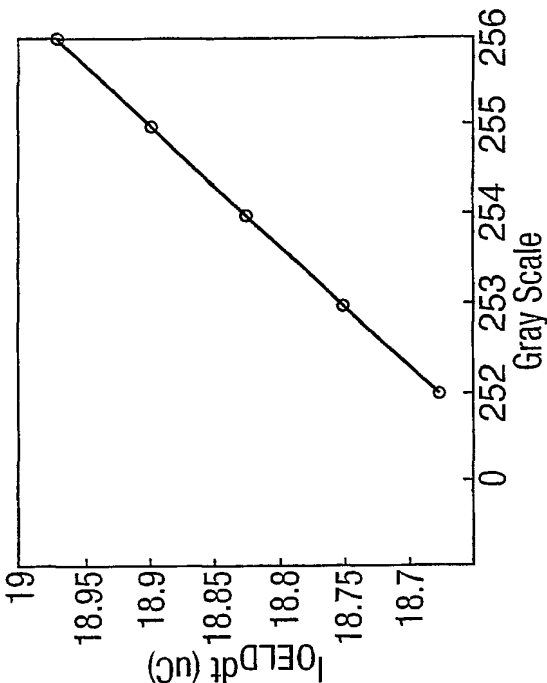
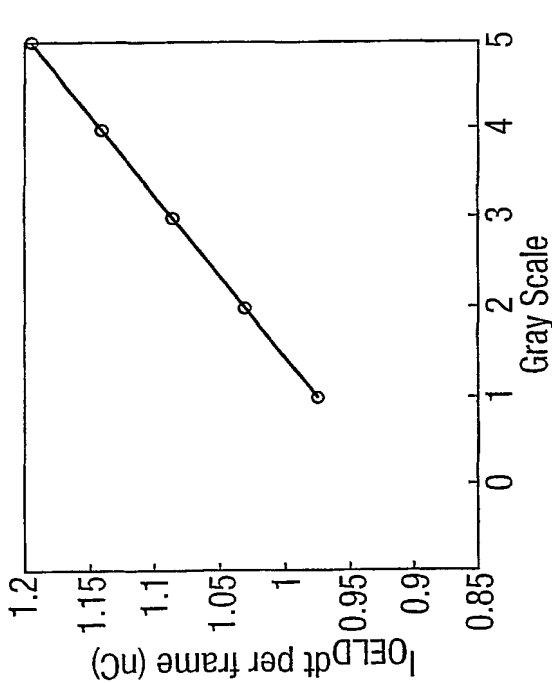
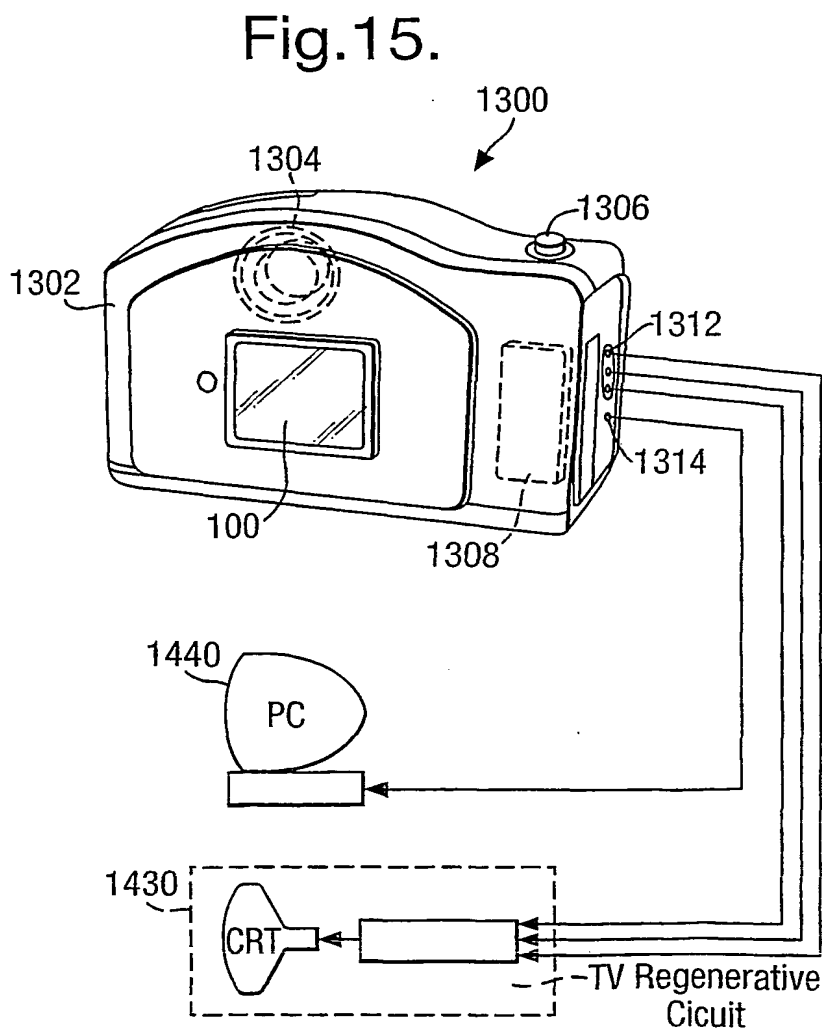
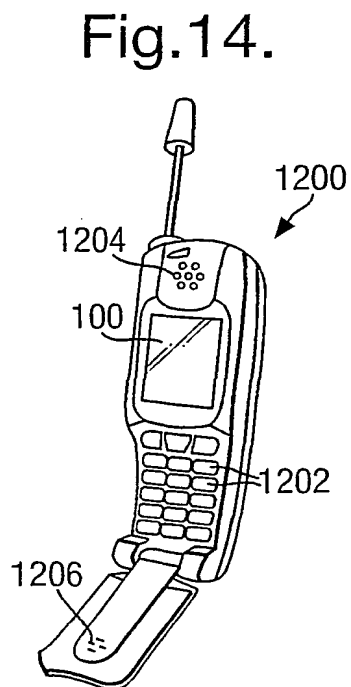
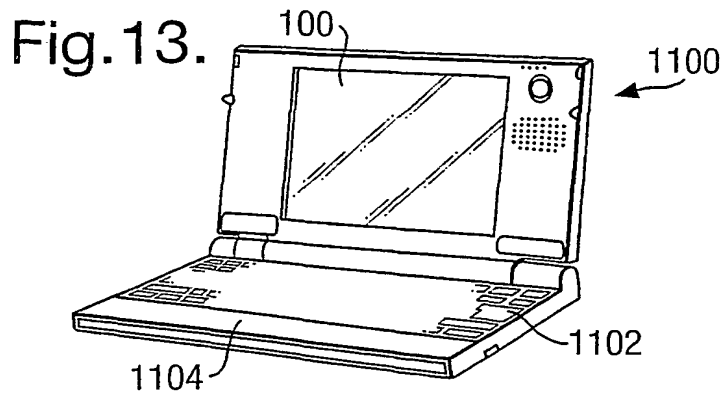


Fig.12(a).

Fig.12(b).

8/8



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 April 2002 (04.04.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/027700 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G09G 3/32**

[GB/GB]; The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1QA (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB01/04376

(22) International Filing Date:
28 September 2001 (28.09.2001)

(74) Agent: **STURT, Clifford, Mark**; Miller Sturt Kenyon, 9 John Street, London WC1N 2ES (GB).

(25) Filing Language: English

(81) Designated States (*national*): CN, JP, KR, US.

(26) Publication Language: English

(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

(30) Priority Data:
0023787.5 28 September 2000 (28.09.2000) GB

Published:
— with international search report

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION** [JP/JP]; 4-1, Nishishinjuku 2-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-0811 (JP).

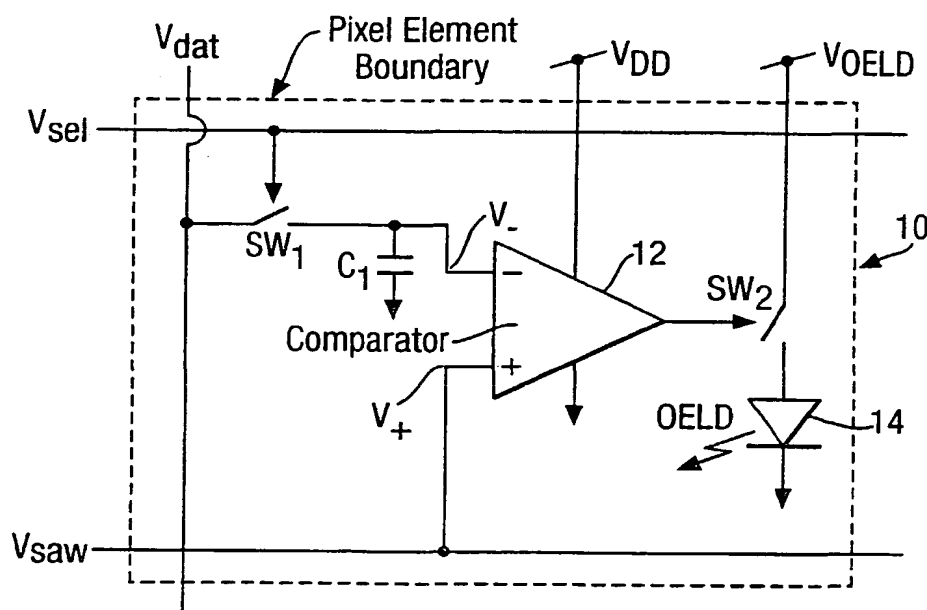
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
1 August 2002

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **TAM, Simon** [GB/GB]; Epson Cambridge Laboratory, 8c King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1SJ (GB). **FRIEND, Richard**

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DISPLAY DEVICE, METHOD OF DRIVING A DISPLAY DEVICE, ELECTRONIC APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A display device comprising a driver circuit which modulates the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period. Preferably the driver circuit comprises a comparator and more preferably the comparator is formed of thin film transistors constituting a differential pair and an inverter. Also provided is a method of driving a display device comprising the step of modulating the duty cycle of the on-state of a pixel during a frame period. Beneficially the display device is an organic electroluminescent active matrix display device.

WO 02/027700 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/04376

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G09G3/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G09G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	(Indicate document with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages)	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 977 942 A (WALKER ET AL.) 2 November 1999 (1999-11-02) column 6, line 57 -column 7, line 64; figures 7,8	1-5, 8-13, 15-17
A	column 7, line 59 - line 64 ---	14
X	EP 0 953 959 A (HEWLETT PACKARD) 3 November 1999 (1999-11-03) page 37, paragraph 148 -page 38, paragraph 154; figure 12 column 28, paragraph 116 -column 29, paragraph 118; figure 10B column 4, line 42 - line 55 --- -/--	1-6, 8-13, 15-17

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 March 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/04/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.O. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lange, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/04376

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 42983 A (CAMBRIDGE DISPLAY TECHNOLOGY) 26 August 1999 (1999-08-26) page 8, line 24 -page 9, line 16 -----	1,2,9-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/04376

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5977942	A	02-11-1999	US 6239780 B1	29-05-2001
			US 2001026261 A1	04-10-2001
EP 0953959	A	03-11-1999	US 6329974 B1	11-12-2001
			EP 0953959 A2	03-11-1999
			JP 11338402 A	10-12-1999
			US 2002021267 A1	21-02-2002
WO 9942983	A	26-08-1999	AU 2529099 A	06-09-1999
			CN 1291321 T	11-04-2001
			EP 1057167 A1	06-12-2000
			WO 9942983 A1	26-08-1999